

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A testing method comprising the steps of:
identifying a plurality of hosts located within a plurality of grids of a grid environment, wherein each of said hosts is a software object;
for each of said grids, associating a passive ghost agent in said grid with each one of said identified hosts operating in said grid, wherein said passive ghost agent is configured to replicate and record at least one action of said host within said grid environment, wherein said replicated actions of said passive agents are prevented from operationally executing in said grid environment;
~~replicating actions of said host for use by said associated ghost agents;~~
~~recording data relating to said replicated actions;~~
moving at least one of said hosts from one of said grids to another of said grids within said grid environment;
in response to said moving of said host, moving said passive ghost agent from said one of said grids to said another grid.
generating test input from said recorded data; and,
testing within said grid environment using said test input.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

determining operational metrics for at least one component to be tested;
modifying said test input based upon said operational metrics.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said hosts are disposed within a production segment of said grid environment and wherein said testing is performed within a test segment of said grid environment.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:
inputting said test input into at least one active ghost agent deployed within said test segment; and,
executing actions within said test segment based upon said active ghost agent that received said test input.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step[[s]] of:
~~deploying ghost agents within said test segment of said grid environment; and,~~
recording data relating to said testing using said deployed ghost agents.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said hosts are associated with a specific application, wherein said testing is conducted for said application.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of:
determining system requirements for said application based at least in part upon output from said testing.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, said method further comprising the step[[s]] of:

gathering usage data for at least one different application using passive ghost agents.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, said method further comprising the steps of:
testing said specific application while simultaneously simulating load conditions resulting from said at least one different application.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium, comprising computer instructions for system~~for~~ testing applications within a grid environment, wherein said grid environment comprises a production segment and a test segment, ~~said system comprising:~~

wherein an application comprises one or more [[a]] hosts configured to execute actions within a grid of said grid environment disposed in said production segment, wherein at least a portion of said hosts [[can]] move from one grid in said grid environment location to another grid in said grid environment location[[;]], and[[,]]

wherein said testing comprises associating a passive ghost agent within said grid with each of said hosts, wherein said ghost agent is configured to record data related to said actions executed by said associated host in said grid, wherein said recorded data is used to simulate user interactions within said test segment, and wherein said passive ghost agent moves responsively from said one grid to said another grid in response to movement of said associated host.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein said testing further comprises ~~comprising:~~ deploying a different host configured to execute actions within said test segment and [[;]] associating a different passive ghost agent with said different

host, wherein said different ghost agent is configured to record data related to actions executed by said different host in [[of]] said test segment.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein said testing further comprises ~~comprising~~: deploying an active ghost agent in said production segment, wherein said active ghost agent is configured to trigger said different host in said test segment to execute said actions based upon data recorded by said passive ghost agent in said production segment.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium in a grid computing environment, comprising computer instructions for testing applications in said grid environment using a passive [[A]] ghost agent associated with a host operating within said grid environment, said passive ghost agent comprising a ghost controller for:

managing interactions between said ghost agent and said grid environment,
a ghost log configured to recording data related to actions executed by [[a]] the
host in a ghost log of said ghost agent, wherein said host is a software object; and

a ghost identifier configured to identifying said ghost agent to components within
a grid environment; [[and,]]

a ghost controller for managing interactions between said ghost agent and said grid environment, wherein said ghost agent can move from location to location within said grid environment, wherein at least a portion of said hosts move from one grid within said grid environment to another grid, wherein said ghost agent automatically moves from said one grid to said another grid within said grid computing environment in response to said associated host moving from said one grid to said another grid, and wherein said ghost agent is used to test grid-based applications.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~ghost agent~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, further comprising computer instructions for:

~~a means for~~ generating test input using said recorded data ~~ghost agent~~.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~ghost agent~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, further comprising computer instructions for:

~~means for~~ simulating user actions during tests using said a ghost agent in a testing segment of said grid environment.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~ghost agent~~ computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, further comprising computer instructions for:

~~means for~~ generating test output using said a ghost agent in a testing segment of said grid environment.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable ~~machine-readable~~ storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a computer ~~machine~~ for causing the computer ~~machine~~ to perform the steps of:

identifying a plurality of hosts located within a plurality of grids of a grid environment, wherein each of said hosts is a software object;

for each of said grids, associating a passive ghost agent in said grid with each one of said identified hosts operating in said grid. wherein said passive ghost agent is configured to replicate and record at least one action of said host within said grid environment, wherein said replicated actions of said passive agents are prevented from operationally executing in said grid environment;

~~replicating actions of said host for use by said associated ghost agents;~~

~~recording data relating to said replicated actions;~~

moving at least one of said hosts from one of said grids to another of said grids within said grid environment;

in response to said moving of said host, moving said passive ghost agent from said one of said grids to said another grid.

generating test input from said recorded data; and,
testing within said grid environment using said test input.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable ~~machine-readable~~ storage of claim 20, further comprising the steps of:

determining operational metrics for at least one component to be tested;
modifying said test input based upon said operational metrics.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable ~~machine-readable~~ storage of claim 20, wherein said hosts are disposed within a production segment of said grid environment and wherein said testing is performed within a test segment of said grid environment.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable ~~machine-readable~~ storage of claim 24, further comprising the steps of:

inputting said test input into at least one active ghost agent deployed within said test segment; and,

executing actions within said test segment based upon said active ghost agent that received said test input.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable ~~machine-readable~~ storage of claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

~~deploying ghost agents within said test segment of said grid environment; and,~~
recording data relating to said testing using said deployed ghost agents.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable ~~machine-readable~~ storage of claim 20, wherein said hosts are associated with a specific application, wherein said testing is conducted for said application.

28. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable ~~machine-readable~~ storage of claim 27, further comprising the step of:

determining system requirements for said application based at least in part upon output from said testing.

29. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable ~~machine-readable~~ storage of claim 27, further comprising the step[[s]] of:

gathering usage data for at least one different application using passive ghost agents.

30. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable ~~machine-readable~~ storage of claim 29, further comprising the step[[s]] of:

testing said specific application while simultaneously simulating load conditions resulting from said at least one different application.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~A system for testing comprising:~~ A computer-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a computer for causing the computer to perform the

steps of:

~~means for~~ identifying a plurality of hosts located within a plurality of grids of a grid environment, wherein each of said hosts is a software object;

~~means for~~ associating in each of said grid a passive ghost agent in said grid with each one of said identified hosts operating in said grid. wherein said passive ghost agent is configured to replicate and record at least one action of said host within said grid environment, wherein said replicated actions of said passive agents are prevented from operationally executing in said grid environment, wherein said passive ghost agent automatically moves from one grid to another grid within said grid computing environment in response to said associated host moving from said one grid to said another grid;

~~means for replicating actions of said host for use by said associated ghost agents;~~

~~means for recording data relating to said replicated actions;~~

~~means for~~ generating test input from said recorded data; and,

~~means for~~ testing within said grid environment using said test input.